



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 404

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6332

House of Representatives, April 2, 2015

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. GUERRERA of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS BY YOUNG DRIVERS AND PARENT ATTENDANCE AT SAFE DRIVING INSTRUCTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-36g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Each person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license issued
4 on and after August 1, 2008, and who is sixteen or seventeen years of
5 age shall comply with the following requirements:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the
7 period of six months after the date of issuance of such license, such
8 person shall not transport more than (A) such person's parents or legal
9 guardian, at least one of whom holds a motor vehicle operator's
10 license, or (B) one passenger who is a driving instructor licensed by the
11 Department of Motor Vehicles, or a person twenty years of age or
12 older who has been licensed to operate, for at least four years

13 preceding the time of being transported, a motor vehicle of the same
14 class as the motor vehicle being operated and who has not had his or
15 her motor vehicle operator's license suspended by the commissioner
16 during such four-year period;

17 (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for the
18 period beginning six months after the date of issuance of such license
19 and ending one year after the date of issuance of such license, such
20 person shall not transport any passenger other than as permitted
21 under subdivision (1) of this subsection and any additional member or
22 members of such person's immediate family;

23 (3) No such person shall operate any motor vehicle for which a
24 public passenger endorsement, as defined in section 14-1, is required
25 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-44 or a vanpool vehicle,
26 as defined in section 14-1;

27 (4) No such person shall transport more passengers in a motor
28 vehicle than the number of seat safety belts permanently installed in
29 such motor vehicle;

30 (5) No such person issued a motorcycle endorsement shall transport
31 any passenger on a motorcycle for a period of six months after the date
32 of issuance; and

33 (6) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, no such
34 person shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway, as defined in
35 section 14-1, at or after 11:00 p.m. until and including 5:00 a.m. of the
36 following day unless (A) such person is traveling for his or her
37 employment or school or religious activities, or (B) there is a medical
38 necessity for such travel.

39 (b) A person who holds a motor vehicle operator's license and who
40 is sixteen or seventeen years of age shall not be subject to the
41 restrictions on the number or type of passengers specified in
42 subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, or to the
43 restrictions specified in subdivision (6) of said subsection (a), if such

44 person is: An active member of a volunteer fire company or
45 department, a volunteer ambulance service or company or an
46 emergency medical service organization and such person is
47 responding to, or returning from, an emergency or is carrying out such
48 person's duties as such active member; or an assigned driver in a Safe
49 Ride program sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of
50 America or other national public service organization.

51 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
52 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection
53 (a) of this section. Such regulations may provide exceptions to the
54 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section for a
55 single parent under the age of eighteen for the purposes of
56 transporting the child of such parent to day care, child care and
57 education facilities, medical appointments, and for such other
58 purposes as may be determined by the commissioner.

59 (d) Any person who violates any provision of subsection (a) of this
60 section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction. The
61 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle
62 operator's license of any person who violates the provisions of
63 subsection (a) of this section for a period of thirty days for a first
64 violation, and for a period of six months or until such person attains
65 the age of eighteen years, whichever is longer, for a second violation.

66 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the provisions of
67 this section in effect July 31, 2008, shall be applicable to any person
68 who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who has been issued a
69 motor vehicle operator's license prior to August 1, 2008.

70 Sec. 2. Section 14-36j of the general statutes is repealed and the
71 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

72 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall amend the
73 regulations adopted pursuant to sections 14-36f and 14-78 concerning
74 the content of safe driving instruction courses offered at drivers'
75 schools, high schools and other secondary schools to require the eight

76 hours of instruction required by such regulations to include, for
77 applicants to whom a learner's permit or youth instruction permit is
78 issued, two hours of instruction concerning the statutory provisions,
79 including penalties, applicable to drivers who are less than eighteen
80 years of age, the dangers of teenage driving, the cognitive
81 development of adolescents, the responsibilities and liabilities of
82 parents of teenage drivers, and related topics deemed by the
83 commissioner to be appropriate.

84 (b) A parent or guardian of any such applicant who is less than
85 eighteen years of age and to whom a learner's permit or youth
86 instruction permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008, [who is less
87 than eighteen years of age,] shall attend such two hours of instruction
88 with such applicant, except such parent or guardian is not required to
89 attend such two hours of instruction more than one time in a three-
90 year period. Before any such applicant is permitted to take the driver's
91 test, such applicant shall provide an affidavit to the commissioner,
92 signed under penalty of false statement, by an official of the driver's
93 school, high school or other secondary school by which such course
94 was conducted, that a parent or guardian attended the two hours of
95 instruction required by subsection (a) of this section with such
96 applicant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2015	14-36g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	14-36j

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact associated with the bill as it: (1) allows 16 or 17 year old licensed drivers to transport passengers during an emergency and (2) eliminates a requirement for parents or guardians to attend class on safe driving if they have attended in the last three years.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6332*****AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS BY YOUNG DRIVERS AND PARENT ATTENDANCE AT SAFE DRIVING INSTRUCTION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill eliminates a requirement that parents or guardians attend two hours of safe driving instruction with a child if they did so with another child in the previous three years. By law, the parent or guardian of anyone under age 18 with a learner's permit must attend two hours of safe driving instruction with the child before he or she can take the driver's license test. The instruction must cover (1) the laws and penalties applicable to drivers under age 18, (2) adolescent cognitive development, (3) teenage drivers' parents' responsibilities and liabilities, and (4) any related topics the motor vehicles commissioner deems appropriate. By law, a permit holder must provide the commissioner an affidavit signed by an official of the driving school or driver education program that a parent or guardian attended the two hours of instruction. The permit holder may not take the driver's test unless this affidavit is provided.

Existing law establishes certain passenger and hour restrictions for 16- and 17- year old licensed drivers. Current law makes an exception for 16- or 17- year old licensees who are active members of an emergency medical services organization or a volunteer ambulance or fire department when they are responding to an emergency. The bill specifies that such 16- or 17- year olds may transport passengers and drive during restricted hours while returning from, in addition to responding to, emergencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/18/2015)